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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I strongly oppose USTelecom's petition to the FCC to eliminate the provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act that require large incumbent carriers to provide Unbundled Network Element (UNE) services to smaller competitors. I have been a customer of one of those smaller competitors (Sonic Telecom LLC) for years. Thanks to the competition that the existing law provides, I pay less for my internet and phone service and receive much better customer support than I previously did with AT&T. I, along with tens of thousands of other customers of smaller competitors like Sonic, have access to lower cost and/or higher bandwidth service, as well as superior customer support, than we would otherwise have. Ending the requirement for the big carriers to provide UNE services to smaller competitors will severely limit the ability for these competitors to grow (or even possibly to continue to exist). I as well as the US population in general would clearly be materially affected in a negative way by any change that limits the availability of such smaller competitors who provide a high-value product.

The United States already has an insufficient number of companies competing in the residential broadband market. The FCC should be taking steps to increase such competition instead of deregulating the industry to reduce such competition.

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